

## HOUSE VOTES OVERWHELMING TO REAUTHORIZE PERKINS

*May 4, 2005* - In another strong show of bipartisan support for CTE, **the House voted to approve H.R. 366**, the Vocational and Technical Education for the Future Act by a bipartisan vote of 416 to 9. While a few issues of concern remain, we are pleased for its expeditious passage and look for these matters (specifically, the reduction in state administration funding) to be worked out in the conference committee.

The nine representatives voted **against** passage of H.R. 366:

Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD)  
Tom Feeney (R-FL)  
Trent Franks (R-AZ)  
Scott Garrett (R-NJ)  
John Hostettler (R-IN)

Jeb Hensarling (R-TX)  
Ron Paul (R-TX)  
Ed Royce (R-CA)  
F. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI)

The eight representatives that **did not cast a vote** are:

Sharrod Brown (D-OH)  
Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL)  
Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL)  
John Larson (D-CT)

Bobby Scott (D-VA)  
Edolphus Towns (D-NY)  
Anthony Weiner (D-NY)  
Curt Weldon (R-PA)

To see a complete vote count, visit <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2005/roll154.xml>.

**SUMMARY OF FLOOR ACTION:** While much of the debate on the passage of H.R. 366 really can't be characterized as 'debate,' as the bill was truly a bipartisan effort, the Democrats did take the opportunity to note the hypocrisy in the situation, namely that the Congress adopted a budget resolution last week that did not include funding for Perkins and today it debates the legislation's reauthorization. Further, Democrats highlighted their hope that today's strong bipartisan support for Perkins sends a signal to the White House and to Congressional appropriators – we need Perkins and it must be funded.

After a debate on the rule governing the debate and vote on H.R. 366, Congressman John Boehner (R-OH), Chairman of the House Education and the Workforce Committee, introduced the bill to the House floor at approximately noon (EDT). During the debate, Congressman Boehner noted the importance of H.R. 366 to the country's economy and education system, as well as noting that Perkins is a "wildly popular" program in Congress.

Congressman Mike Castle (R-DE), sponsor of H.R. 366, joined several of his colleagues in supporting the bill. In his remarks, he noted that while the focus on high schools is growing and it is right to encourage this growth, it should not come at the expense of CTE. Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey (D-CA), who has long supported CTE, applauded the bipartisan efforts made during this reauthorization process and stated that bringing this bill forward is important to both students and the economy. She also addressed her concerns regarding the reduction in state administration funding, explaining that increasing the responsibilities of states while reducing their administration funding level is counterproductive.

Congressman Tom Osborne (R-NE) also voiced support for H.R. 366, stating that the “nation needs a competent and skilled workforce, and that we are not currently producing enough skilled workers.”

Other representatives who spoke on record in support of H.R. 366 included Representatives John Peterson (R-PA), Bobby Jindal (R-LA), Charles Dent (R-PA), James McGovern (D-MA), Darrell Issa (R-CA), John Tierney (D-MA), Susan Davis (D-CA), Virginia Fox (R-NC), Bob Etheridge (D-NC), Melissa Bean (D-IL), Rush Holt (D-NJ), Charles Boustany (D-LA), Ron Kind (D-WI), Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-CA), and George Miller (D-CA).

**AMDENDMENTS:** During the floor debate, a total of **three amendments were offered and all passed by voice vote**. To read these amendments, click on the link below the summary.

- Representative Michael Castle’s (R-DE) amendment would ensure that despite H.R. 366’s elimination of a separate funding stream for Tech Prep, states are required to ‘hold harmless’ funding for tech prep activities at FY05 levels. Or put another way, a state must spend the same amount of Perkins funds it received via the separate Tech Prep funding stream in FY05, in all future years under the new law.  
[http://www.house.gov/rules/109castlehr366\\_3.pdf](http://www.house.gov/rules/109castlehr366_3.pdf).
- Representative David Wu’s (D-OR) amendment would allow states, as part of their state leadership activities, to use funds to facilitate the transition of CTE students into baccalaureate degree programs. Specifically, the funds would be used for: statewide articulation agreements between CTE schools and colleges and universities; dual and concurrent enrollment programs; academic and financial aid counseling; and other initiatives to encourage the pursuit of a baccalaureate degree, including those relating to geography and affecting special populations.  
<http://www.house.gov/rules/109hr366wu1.pdf>.
- Representative Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-CA) offered an amendment that would allow local funds to be used for training programs for automotive technicians working on hybrid or fuel efficient vehicles. <http://www.house.gov/rules/109hr366millmc8.pdf>.

In addition, Representative Castle also offered an amendment in the nature of a substitute that provides for additional technical changes made to the bill since passage out of committee. Once the text of this substitute is available, we will alert NASDCTEc members.

After all amendments were adopted, Representative George Miller (D-CA), Ranking Member on the House Education and Workforce Committee, made a motion to recommit H.R. 366 to the House Education and Workforce Committee with instructions. The instructions related to including language in the bill that would restrict use of federal education funds for ‘political propaganda.’ The motion failed by a party-line vote of 196 to 225, clearing the way for final passage.

To read a copy of the bill and amendments as reported to the House, visit <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?c109:2:./temp/~c109p5vLLy>.

**ACTION:** We encourage you to contact your representatives and thank them for their vote in favor of H.R. 366.

We also recommend that you contact those members who did not cast a vote and encourage them to submit statements in the Congressional Record expressing their support of the bill. The Record will be held open for five days for statements to be submitted.

**NEXT STEPS:** With the passage of H.R. 366 and S. 250, both chambers will have to appoint conference committee members to reconcile the differences between the two bills.

**ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE:** Immediately after the House passed H.R. 366, the Bush Administration released a Statement of Administration Policy saying that while they still believe Perkins is ineffective, they hope that as Congress moves forward with reauthorization they will improve accountability for federal funding and ensure that all CTE students are moving towards improved graduation rates and certificate or degree attainment. This statement might be considered positive progress or at least an acknowledgement by the Administration that reauthorization of Perkins is going to happen despite the President's proposal to eliminate the program.

To read the full statement, visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/legislative/sap/109-1/hr366sap-h.pdf>.

**THANK YOU:** Thank you again for all your advocacy efforts. The time and energy you have spent to communicate with your congressman the importance of this legislation has once again paid off!

For more information, please contact NASDCTEc's Director of Government Relations, Nichole Jackson at [njackson@careertech.org](mailto:njackson@careertech.org).

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